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Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Twenty-first session
Geneva, 14–18 May 2018
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr A. **Min Tjoa** (Austria)

Chapter __
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its twenty-first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 14–18 May 2018. The Commission held __ meetings (1st to _th).

2. The session was opened by the Vice-Chair, Wang Raijun (China).

3. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mukhisa Kituyi, and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Houlin Zhao, made opening statements.

Ministerial round table
"The role of science, technology and innovation in supporting sustainable and resilient societies"

4. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May, the Commission held a ministerial roundtable on the 2018 theme of the Economic and Social Council, on "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities". The roundtable was moderated by the Chair Placido Gomez, who also made introductory remarks. The following participants took part: Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, Sarath Amunugama; Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola, Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo; Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Bolivia, Jenny Carrasco Arredondo; Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa, Mmamoloko T. Kubayi-Ngubane; Minister of Higher Education, Zambia, Nkandu Luo; Minister of Communications, Science and Technology for Development, Lesotho, Thesele Maseribane; Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan, Rana Tanveer Hussain; and Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Miguel Ruiz Cabañas.

5. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May, the representatives of Cuba and Thailand.

6. A statement was made by the observer of the Islamic Development Bank.

7. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

8. Also, at the same meeting, the Commission agreed to transmit the Chair's summary of the discussion of the ministerial roundtable to the 2018 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council to be held in New York from 16 to 19 July 2018.

High-level round table "Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"

9. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 May, The Commission held a ministerial roundtable on "Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals". The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ms. Isabel Durant, made introductory remarks. The roundtable was moderated by Mr. Andrew Revkin, Strategic Advisor for Environmental and Science Journalism, National Geographic Society. The following participants took part: Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Mexico, Miguel Ruiz Cabañas; Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana, Ngaka Ngaka.; Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, Swaziland, Dumisani C. Ndlangamandla; Minister of Higher Education, Zambia, Nkandu Luo; Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa, Mmamoloko T. Kubayi-Ngubane; Director General of the Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland, Philipp Metzger; Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Bolivia, Jenny Carrasco Arredondo; President of the Office of Electronic Communications, Poland, Marcin Cichy; Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola, Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo; Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana, Patricia Appiagyei; and Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, Sarath Amunugama.

10. Also at the 2nd meeting, on 14 May, the representatives of China and the United States of America made statements.

11. A statement was also made by the observer for Nepal.

12. His Excellency Plácido Gómez, Chair (Dominican Republic), summarized the discussion.

B. Attendance

13. The session was attended by representatives of 38 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society and business entities also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

14. At the 8th meeting of its twentieth session, on 12 May 2017 the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its twenty-first session by acclamation.

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. A Min Tjoa (Austria)

Mr. Wang Ruijin (China)

Mr. Peter Major (Hungary)

Mr. Joseph Noël Etienne Sinatambou (Mauritius)

15. At the 1st meeting of the twenty-first session of the Commission, on 14 May 2018, His Excellency Plácido Gómez Ramírez, Vice Minister for Science and Technology of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Dominican Republic) was elected to serve as Chair.

16. At the same meeting, on 14 May 2018, the Commission appointed Mr. A. Min Tjoa (Austria) to serve, in addition to serving as Vice-Chair, as Rapporteur of the twenty-first session of the Commission.

D. Agenda and organization of work

17. At its 1st meeting, on 14 May, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2018/1 and Corrigendum 1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
3. Science and technology for development

   Priority themes:

   (a) The role of science, technology and innovation in increasing substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030

   (b) Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-second session of the Commission
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-second session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-first session

18. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Commission appointed Mr. A Min Tjoa, (Austria) to facilitate the draft resolution on "Science and technology for development" and Mr. Peter Major (Hungary) to facilitate the draft resolution on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.